

KAUR Has A Rocky, But Successful Year

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■ **On the air..** D.J. Pagone (yes his name is D. J. and he works as a DJ) reads the news.
photo by Chris Pearson

KAUR's continued operation at Augustana was questioned this year by interim President Sidney Rand and the Board of Regents.

On Nov. 23, Rand called a meeting of KAUR's executive staff. Rand expressed the following concerns: "use of inappropriate language, dead spaces, and lack of competence of some of the announcers," all brought to his attention through listener complaints. Some of KAUR's actions could have been FCC violations.

Rand said if the station didn't change, the administration would consider removing it from the airwaves.

Station manager of KAUR, Melissa Moyer, said that it was unfair that Rand gave the station an ultimatum--change or go off the air--when he hadn't given any previous warnings. Moyer also questioned Rand's lack of documentation of the potential violations.

Word began circulating that Minnesota Public Radio was interested in buying the station; which was true, but word also began circulating that Augie could not pay MPR's annual sponsorship fee, so giving KAUR to MPR was a way of compensating for the sponsorship fee. Rand maintained that there was no connection while many students thought differently. The rumor was soon quelled though: In February, the Board of Regents decided to not sell KAUR.

Since then threatened close-down, the KAUR staff has instituted many changes in hope of saving the station. KAUR has reorganized its format to appeal to a more general audience and condensed operating hours so KAUR executives can monitor broadcasts more easily. Furthermore, the station is working more closely with the faculty and administration. So far, the changes seem to be working.



by Kelley Cook